

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 215

By Clemmons

A RESOLUTION to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of Oh Boy Records.

WHEREAS, we take great pleasure in recognizing a hometown independent business that has transformed the business model for record labels over the past forty years; and

WHEREAS, Oh Boy Records, an independent record label located in Nashville, was founded in 1981 by multiple Grammy-Award winner and legendary singer-songwriter the late John Prine and his manager, business partner, and friend, the late Al Bunetta; and

WHEREAS, the saga of Oh Boy Records began in 1980 when John Prine moved to Nashville after his recording contract expired; rather than sign with another label, he decided to start one of his own and was joined in the venture by Mr. Bunetta; and

WHEREAS, the new Oh Boy label's first release was a red vinyl Christmas single with John Prine singing "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus" on the A-side and "Silver Bells" on the B-side; and

WHEREAS, Oh Boy's first full-length release was Mr. Prine's *Aimless Love*, which album was completely fan-funded and helped launch the label and secure its future; and

WHEREAS, Oh Boy's business model was successful and proved that singer-songwriters could excel without the support of a major label; and

WHEREAS, over the years, John Prine received lucrative offers to purchase the Oh Boy label, but he wisely decided to remain independent; and

WHEREAS, since Mr. Prine's death last year, his wife, Fiona Whelan, and son, Jody Whelan, have continued his legacy through their ongoing management of Oh Boy Records, the second-oldest artist-run independent label in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, Oh Boy Records has now released more than fifty audio and video recordings by singer-songwriters John Prine, Dan Reeder, Todd Snider, Kris Kristofferson, Kelsey Waldon, Tré Burt, and Arlo McKinley, along with a dozen reissues of classic country music artists; and

WHEREAS, today, Oh Boy Records continues to expand its catalog with a dedication to authentic voices, giving songwriters a platform to create art while speaking their truth; and

WHEREAS, Oh Boy Records transformed the recording industry for singer-songwriters by allowing them to succeed on their own terms, and the label is richly deserving of our approbation on this special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we commemorate the fortieth anniversary of Oh Boy Records and extend to Fiona Whelan, Jody Whelan, and the Prine family our best wishes for much continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.